

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00559 181520Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
-----182117Z 123742 /75-61

R 181403Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8885
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR
SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF ISRAEL/SOVIET DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION APRIL 17, I HAD OCCASION TO ASK
MFA DIRGEN AVINERI ABOUT REPORT IN MORNING JERUSALEM
POST THAT UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCE HAD CONCLUDED
THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL PROBABLY MOVE TO RESTORE
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL LATER THIS YEAR,
PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THIS SUMMER.

2. AVINERI ASSERTED ACCOUNT WAS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.
ON APRIL 15, HE SAID HEARST CORRESPONDENT, JOHN WALLACH,
HAD LUNCH WITH DOBRYNIN WHO REPORTEDLY HINTED AT
INCREASE IN USSR/ISRAEL CONTACTS. WALLACH HAD LATER
CALLED DINITZ AND AMBASSADOR HERZOG IN NEW YORK AS WELL
AS SOMEONE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ALL OF WHOM SAID
REPORT WAS INTERESTING BUT WERE OTHERWISE NONCOMMITTAL.

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00559 181520Z

3. AVINERI CATEGORICALLY STATED ISRAEL HAD NO
INTEREST IN RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
SOVIETS AS LONG AS USSR CONTINUED TO SUPPORT PLO.
HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS HAD
BEEN RELATIVELY MODERATE, HOWEVER, "GOI DID NOT WISH
TO HAVE A SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV WHO WOULD
SIMPLY PROTEST EVERY TIME A DEMONSTRATION IN NABLUS

WAS DISPERSED."

4. ASKED WHETHER ISRAEL MIGHT NOT WISH TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS GIVEN POTENTIAL SOVIET ROLE AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO SEE GREATER IMMIGRATION AND BETTER TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWRY, AVINERI DISCOUNTED THESE FACTORS. HE OBSERVED SOVIETS HAD HANDLED THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST BADLY SINCE 1967 AND ISRAEL HAD NO RPT NO INTEREST IN HELPING SOVIETS OUT OF THEIR CURRENT RELATIVE ISOLATION.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS FOR EMBASSY TEL AVIV TO JUDGE, AVINERI'S CATEGORIC DISCLAIMERS STRUCK THIS OBSERVER AS BEING ANXIOUS TO SPIKE RUMORS OF EARLY RESUMPTION SOVIET/ISRAEL RELATIONS. JERUSALEM POST APRIL 18 CARRIES REPORT OF AVINERI BRIEFING AT GOI CABINET MEETING APRIL 17 IN WHICH HE REPORTED THAT USSR HAS TOLD US IT HAS NO INTENTION OF RESTORING TIES WITH ISRAEL. AVINERI REPORTEDLY TOLD CABINET THAT SECRETARY HAD RAISED MATTER WITH GROMOKO IN MOSCOW LAST MONTH AND BEEN TOLD THAT SOVIETS WERE NOT CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD TIES WITH ISRAEL.
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